ACROSS / A18

179 retired AFP officers in antismuggling body axed for entry of P45M cell phones

WORLD / A23

Starbucks to close 100 stores in US



ENTERTAINMENT / G1

The Greta chronicles: New love is Dodi Puno; Tonyboy lets her go for a 'beautiful' reason

JDV buys time: Son's silence for GMA support

By Norman Bordadora and Michael Lim Ubac

EMBATTLED SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA yesterday said he had won the support of President Macapagal-Arroyo in his battle to keep his post ... apparently in exchange for the silence of his son, Jose de Venecia III, on the scandal-tainted ZTE telecommunications deal.

"I'm happy to say that President Arroyo confirmed to certain terms her support for my continued stay as Speaker ...

Economists, business leaders hail GDP hike

By Daxim L. Lucas

ECONOMISTS AND BUSINESS LEADERS yesterday cheered the strong 2007 growth numbers announced by the government but cautioned Republic to brace for tougher times ahead amid lingering uncertainty about the state of the US economy.

"The results are above expectations ...

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, February 1, 2008 | Vol. 23 | No. 54

Economy grew 7.3% in 2007, highest in 31 years, says Neda

By Michelle V. Remo

SURPASSING EXPECTATIONS, THE Philippine economy as measured by the gross domestic product (GDP) grew 7.3 percent in 2007, its best performance in more than three decades.

"As expected, the 7.3-percent full-year output expansion exceeded our last expectations and it is so far the strongest since the economy registered its peak of 8.8 percent in 1976," Augusto Santos, acting director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), said yesterday.



GDP is the value of goods produced and services rendered in an economy in a given period. It excludes remittances from overseas workers. (See In the News on Page A8.)

The GDP growth was well above the government's official target of between 6.1 and 6.7 percent, and beat most forecasts by private sector economists. It was also better than the 5.4 percent recorded in 2006.

ECONOMY A2



CHANGING SKYLINE, EMERGING ECONOMY A construction worker [illegible]

Senate: Palace hiding Neri

Villar says former Neda chief now a fugitive

By Allison W. Lopez, Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Michael Lim Ubac

MALACAÑANG IS helping Romulo Neri hide so he can stay mum on the National Broadband Network (NBN) scandal in which President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband is implicated, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano said yesterday.

According to Cayetano, hiding Neri is part of the Palace's "stop-investigation move" in order to push through with the NBN project even if it will no longer be awarded to China's ZTE Corp.

"There's no doubt about it that Malacañang does not want Secretary Neri and others to testify," Cayetano said [illegible]

He pointed out that [illegible]

SENATE A6



TRICKLE-DOWN ECONOMICS

[illegible]

Giuliani, Edwards quit race for White House

WASHINGTON—REPUBLICAN RUDY Giuliani and Democrat John Edwards have dropped out of the US presidential race, narrowing down wide-open White House races for both parties to the front-runner candidates.

In a major boost for rival John McCain, Republican presidential rival Mitt Romney signaled on Wednesday that he was not ready to commit to a costly campaign in the states holding primaries and caucuses next week.

Even so, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger will be throwing his support behind McCain. According to senior aides for the governor, Schwarzenegger's endorsement will be announced on Thursday.

California is an important Super

GIULIANI A14

RVM founder moving closer to beatification

By Jerome Aning

A 17TH-CENTURY FILIPINO WOMAN from Batangas, who led a life of prayer and in whose intercession was ascribed the miraculous cure of a diabetic, moves a step closer to beatification today.

In a solemn Mass at 9 o'clock this morning, the president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, will read out a papal decree [illegible]

[illegible] A17

EDUCATION SUMMIT

Meet aims to fix mess in RP schools

By Nikko Dizon and Michael Lim Ubac

A TWO-DAY "EDUCATION SUMMIT" called by Malacañang opened yesterday in hopes of arresting the deterioration of the country's school system, now ranked and among the bottom-dwellers in global student competitiveness and often blamed for producing graduates ill-suited for the job market.

Addressing the 1st Biennial National Congress on Education, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued marching orders for the sector to shape up, including an order requiring teachers to take up English retooling [illegible] to speak and [illegible] in the children to spend a year in preschool or daycare before entering Grade 1.

Held at the Manila Hotel, the summit is considered the first major review of what has been ailing Philippine education since it was "trifocalized" in 1994, according to Ms Arroyo's assistant for education, Mona Valisno.

That was the year the government divided the sector among the Department of Education (for elementary and high school), the Commission on Higher Education (college) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority or Tesda (for vocational courses).

MEET A17



Lacson raises questions about Melo's connections



THE CRY Romulo Neri admits [illegible] P200-M bribe. (Right) Melo gives Neri an earful.

By Beverly T. Natividad

HOW COULD ANTONIO MELO could hardly recognize him so public he involved in his designation as new chair of the Commission on Elections (Comelec)?

Retired Supreme Court Justice Jose A.R. Melo raised the question yesterday as he dismissed reports that he got his appointment through the intercession of [illegible]

LACSON A17

THE BIG REVEAL Is it a case of the same [illegible] with a different [illegible] Comelec Chair Jose Melo was photographed behind [illegible] the latter's supporting [illegible] during the Senate hearing [illegible] the ZTE-NBN deal on Sept. 26, 2007.



JPE receives 'mystery' letter from Lozada

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE PLOT THICKENS.

A letter purportedly from "[illegible]" Senate witness Rodolfo Lozada Jr. was sent to Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile Wednesday night, as the Senate issued arrest orders for Lozada and former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri.

Enrile said he was baffled by the letter, which was made to appear it was handwritten [illegible] Malacañang press [illegible]

JPE [illegible] A6

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FrontPage

EZ2 SIX DIGIT

SUERTRES

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

₱17,538,912.00

Extortion eyed in GenSan blast

Probers rule out terror in cannery attack

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Police have ruled out terrorism in the explosion that killed four persons and wounded 27 others outside a tuna cannery here on Wednesday and now are considering that the attack may have been the outcome of extortion activities or a labor dispute.



COMELEC RETIREES

PTA chief can stay as SC upholds term

WHAT'S INSIDE

BIR to audit insurance firms over low tax take

DOH launches year-round dengue drive

Community action

Real dengue cases

Contested ballots found soaking wet

Pinoy caregivers get a break in UK

I'm not hiding, says Neri who turns 58 today

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

To Supreme Court

13 solons off on R & R

By Tarra Quismundo

Senate: Palace hiding Neri, a fugitive, says Villar

Obstruction of justice

'Just show up'

Not legally binding

Futile

JDV buys time ...

Will tell family to back off

Separation of powers

Meeting with FVR

JDV's supporters

Crime rivalry eyed in killing of ex-mayor

Political vendetta

Identity of gunman

The Daily Gospel







Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following company/ies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

[illegible]
OIC-Regional Director

Economy grew 7.3% in 2007 ...

From page A1

The high GDP growth is expected to place the Philippines among the top five fastest growing economies in Asia for 2007, according to Neda. Neighboring countries have yet to announce their economic growth for 2007.

But some economists doubted the Philippine economy grew that fast.

Unlikely

Benjamin Diokno, an economics professor at the University of the Philippines, said it was unlikely that agricultural growth accelerated when farm production was hit by drought.

Diokno also said that imports were likely understated because a lot of items were smuggled into the country. Earnings from exports minus spending for imports is part of the GDP computation.

Neda said imports contracted by 6.6 percent last year, while exports grew by 2 percent.

Diokno said a more believable GDP growth figure for 2007 was between 6 and 6.5 percent.

GNP grew 7.8%

The gross national product (GNP), the sum of all goods produced and services rendered by Filipinos, grew 7.8 percent, the fastest since 1977. GNP includes net factor income from abroad, which covers remittances sent by overseas Filipino workers.

Neda said the robust growth was broad-based, as all major sectors of the economy recorded faster expansion.

The mining sector grew a phenomenal 25 percent, while remittances from OFWs rose to an all-time high of $12 billion from January to November. Construction grew almost 20 percent.

Growth in all sectors

Neda said the agriculture, fisheries and forestry (AFF) sector rose 5.1 percent last year from 3.8 percent in 2006. The industry sector grew 6.6 percent from 4.5 percent, while the services sector expanded 8.7 percent from 6.7 percent.

Major contributors to the growth of the AFF sector were the subsectors of corn (which grew 18.8 percent), banana (18.1 percent) and forestry (12.5 percent).

The 25 percent expansion of the mining and quarrying subsector, a huge turnaround from the 6.1 percent decline in 2006, boosted the industry sector growth.

The growth of the mining sector "is an indication that the government's effort to revive the mining industry is bearing fruit," Santos said in a statement.

Construction also saw a substantial improvement, growing by 19.6 percent from 7.3 percent.

The 8.7 percent growth of the services sector, which includes the booming call center subsector, was the fastest since 1987.

Subsectors: Faster growths

Almost all subsectors of the services sector registered faster growths: transportation and communication (from 6.3 to 8.2 percent), trade (from 6.3 to 9.8 percent), finance (from 11.4 to 12.3 percent), real estate (from 5.7 to 8 percent), private services (from 6.5 to 8.6 percent). Only government services registered a slowdown (from 4.7 to 3.3 percent).

Government consumption, which pumped prime the economy, grew 13 percent, the fastest pace since 1974, according to Neda.

Improving revenue collection

Economic managers said the government's improving revenue collection allowed it to spend more on social services and infrastructure.

It was reported earlier that the government raised P90 billion from the sale of state-owned assets last year, an amount that helped it stay within its fiscal target for 2007 despite a shortfall in tax collection.

The government sought to limit the budget deficit at P63 billion last year, but the Department of Finance earlier said that the actual figure would be a "small deficit" because of higher revenues. The actual deficit figure is expected to be announced next month.

Boost to household spending

Increase in remittances from OFWs spurred household spending, boosting economic growth.

The Neda said compensation income sent by OFWs to their families reached P739.2 billion last year, higher by 7.4 percent than the P758.9 billion of the previous year.

The government said it was bent on sustaining last year's growth and help the economy overcome the challenges confronting it this year.

US recession

The US economy is projected to slip into recession this year, an event that will adversely affect the Philippine economy.

Recession, which reflects lower overall demand for products and services, is defined as two consecutive quarters of negative growth.

Because the United States is the Philippines' biggest export market, Filipino exporters would be hurt by a US recession. The United States accounts for about 16 to 18 percent of Philippine exports.

A 1 percentage point drop in the GDP of the United States would result in a decline of 1.76 percentage points in the GNP growth of the Philippines, according to Neda estimates.

Biggest source of remittances

The United States is also the biggest source of OFW remittances, and is where most clients of call centers in the Philippines are based.

A US recession is, therefore, bound to dampen spending by OFW families and drag down growth of the call center industry.

Besides a US recession, rising oil prices and strengthening of the peso would also adversely affect household spending, according to Santos.

A strong peso reduces the peso equivalent of dollar remittances.

"The administration is committed to doing whatever it can to ease the burden imposed on Filipinos by the strong peso, volatile international energy prices, and a potential global economic slowdown," Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said.

Difficult to sustain

For 2008, Diokno said it would be difficult to sustain the 2007 growth because of the ill effects of the strong peso, restrained government spending and slower exports.

He said GDP growth this year would hit only 5 to 5.5 percent.

Faster economic growth is hailed by any administration because it supposedly reflects improved quality of life.

Growth in the economy often results from higher investments and income by businesses, which in turn lead to additional jobs. Higher employment rate should in turn lead to increase in overall income.

Not for poor

Critics said the growth was only in numbers and was not felt by the poor.

"The growth that government hopes is meaningless for millions of Filipinos and only reflect the profits of big foreign businesses and their local partners. In reality, the economy is less able to create sufficient jobs and decent incomes for many Filipinos," said Ibon Foundation, a research organization.

GMA: 28 consecutive quarters of growth under my watch

By Michael Lim Ubac

WITH THE GROSS DOMESTIC product (GDP) posting a growth rate of 7.3 percent last year, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said the Philippine economy "has turned around."

The President said the country under her watch had achieved "28 consecutive quarters of growth, topped off by 7 percent growth in 2007."

"The stock market is up, seven million jobs have been created in seven years, and our currency is one of the strongest in Asia. Investments are surging and many new companies are investing in us," she said in a speech at the first ever National Education Congress.

She described the Philippines as "one of the best tellers in Asia right now."

To keep the country "resilient" due to the US economic slowdown, "we are scaling up Ahon Pamilyang Pinoy from P50 million to P5 billion this year," said the President.

Under the scheme, the government gives cash—dubbed conditional cash transfers—to poor households that "comply with rules that enhance learning and health."

"Money allocation is not everything god. We will continue to focus on it. Tightening the budget is just the first step. Over the next few years, we will translate the positive results of our reforms to real benefits for the people," Ms Arroyo said.

IN THE KNOW

GDP

THE GROSS DOMESTIC Product is the total market value of goods and services produced in a country in a given period. It is computed by adding total consumption, investment and government spending plus net exports (exports minus imports). GDP does not take into account remittances from overseas workers.

GDP is one of the most recognized measures of economic performance in the world. If a country's GDP declines for two or more consecutive quarters, that country is said to be in recession.

However, GDP is not always an accurate indicator of standard of living. Even one of its originators, Nobel Prize-winning economist Simon Kuznets, was aware of GDP's limitations. In a report to the US Congress in 1934, he said, "The welfare of a nation can scarcely be inferred from a measure of national income."

For one, GDP counts environmental damage, like oil spills, as a contributor to economic growth because the resulting cleanup would require spending on the part of the government. Wars and their aftermath also involve economic activity that increases GDP.

GDP also does not provide information relevant to income distribution. —*CYRIL BONABENTE, Inquirer Research*

Economists, business leaders hail GDP hike

From page A1

said Cayetano Paderanga Jr., who chairs the Institute for Development and Econometric Analysis (Idea) Inc.

He earlier predicted that the value of the country's total economic output for last year would grow by 6.8 percent, due mainly to the strength of the services and mining sectors.

But Paderanga, who served as socioeconomic planning secretary in the Aquino administration, said that growth this year would be dampened by "external factors," referring to the widely anticipated recession in the United States.

Largest trading partner

The Philippines has managed to diversify its base of trading partners in recent years, although the United States remains its largest trading partner, purchasing the bulk of the country's electronics exports.

Paderanga's views were echoed by Alberto Lim, Makati Business Club (MBC) executive director, who welcomed the strong growth numbers but reminded the public that the very same numbers would make it difficult for the economy to perform as well this year.

"We are starting 2008 from a very high base," Lim said, referring to last year's gross domestic product growth rate. "This means that this year's growth will not be as spectacular as last year's."

That's past

The MBC is the umbrella organization of the country's largest corporations, the output of which accounts for a significant percentage of total economic output.

"What they announced is already in the past," Lim said. "And that is not a good indicator of the future."

Lim cited the US economic slowdown as the biggest risk to the country's economic outlook for this year.

"Definitely it will affect us because the US is still our largest trading partner," he said.

The MBC executive pointed out that the peso-dollar exchange rate would also pose a threat to the economy this year, especially if it continues appreciating as it did last year.

Oil price to stabilize

"This will affect companies which earn in dollars like business process outsourcing firms and exporters," he said.

Lim downplayed, however, the impact of oil prices on the local economy, saying that recent studies suggest that prices on the international market may be ready to stabilize.

"It looks like [oil prices] will average between $70 to $80 [per barrel] from now on," he said, adding that it was unlikely the $100-per-barrel scenario would be sustained.



WEATHERING THE STORM. Increased infrastructure spending also prepares the Philippines to weather what is increasingly being seen as the looming recession in the United States.

Bring 'bayong,' shoppers told

By Jocelyn R. Uy

BRING YOUR OWN "bayong" (woven native bag) when shopping and help the country save on imported oil.

Environmental group EcoWaste Coalition said this piece of [illegible] day the [illegible] and [illegible] as stakeholders in the energy sector addressed the impact of the high oil prices on the economy at the energy summit in Pasig City.

"Cutting back on the excessive use of plastic carry bags will lessen the demand for expensive oil, as well as minimize the waste and pollution resulting from the production, consumption and disposal of plastic bags," said Gigie Cruz of EcoWaste's Task Force on Plastics in a statement.

Citing a study by Worldwatch Institute, an independent research organization, Cruz said factories around the world produced four to five trillion plastic bags a year. Of these, 500 billion end up in the trash.

She pointed out that some 430,000 gallons of oil were needed to produce 100 million plastic bags.

BIR'S CY 2007 COLLECTION EXCEEDED ITS CY 2006 COLLECTION BY P50.365 B


Handyman Do it Best Home Center
Our 50th Store
Now Open
ROBINSONS OTIS
PHILIPS
Paz Mendoza Guazon St., Paco Manila, In Front Of Hyundai Otis
Handyman Do it center


Express your Love!
INQUIRER
The Philippine Daily Inquirer subscription offer
BE WELL COVERED THIS SEASON OF HEARTS AND BEYOND
with the hottest news and views only from the country's most-read newspaper
PLUS get a FREE 4-piece sport shirt set for every one-year subscription!
Call 896-6000
INQUIRER



Robinsons Supermarket
WOW!
Low, Low Prices!
February 1 - 14, 2008
Fuji Apple
P13
Valencia Orange
P14
Chicken Drumstick
P125
Chicken Breast Fillet
P161
Yellow Mango
P68
Potato Marble
P30
White Onion
P110
Pechay Wombok
P35
Salmon Head
P115
Ground Pork
P170
Kilaga Cut
P190
P140
Vino Fontana
P156.75
P208
HOT BUY
P22.50
Bayer
P129
Bayer
P189
Yili
P56
Nescafe
P92.35
Nescafe Classic
P63.20
Yili
P50
Hershey's
P27.75
CDO
P31.50
Ferrero Rocher
P210
Hershey's
P27.75
P35
Cadbury
P198
Cadbury
P410
Mama Sita's
P42.75
Mama Sita's
P25
P62
Libby's
P26
Ferrero Rocher
P432
Nestle
P78
Nestle
P32.50
El Faveolito
P171
Marby
P41.75
Marby
P40
P31.50
CDO
P124
CDO
P86
Colgate
P89.90
Colgate
P69.50
Black & White
P36.75
P251.75
P128
P127.75
P89.50
Colgate
P69.35
Black & White
P63
P251.75
P132.75
P44.75
P45
P60
P25
APPLE TAG SPECIALS
P85
P60
P1,370
Get Discounts Daily on Healthy Choices
http://www.robinsons-supermarket.com.ph

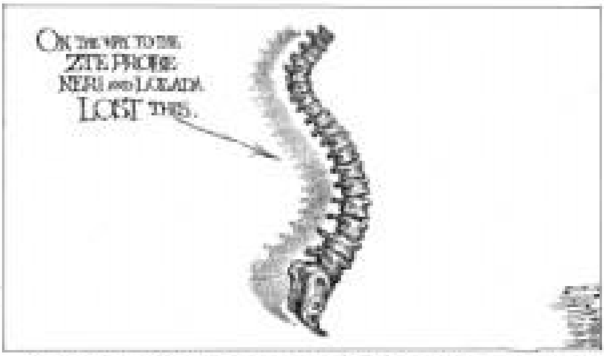
INQUIRER

Opinion

Arrest them

EDITORIAL

[illegible]



Can't they find a better candidate for speaker?

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

[illegible]

Judicial activism and its limits

Passion for Reason

Raul C. Pangalangan

[illegible]

Is Esperon indispensable?

ANALYSIS



Amando Doronila

'Cordi'

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

To whom do we turn?

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

The romance of books

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

Priests better than pols

LETTERS

[illegible]

—R.S. [illegible]

The news on 'booming economy' turned reader's stomach

[illegible]

Thanks to CARP, tenant bullying senior citizens

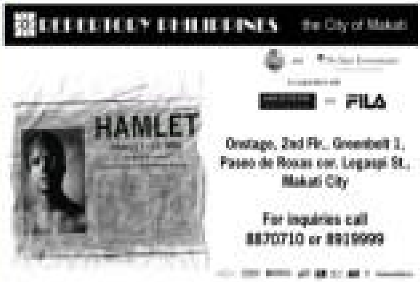
[illegible]

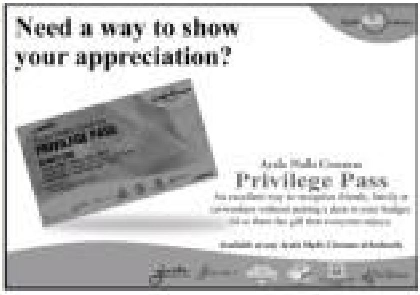
What's next after SC's ruling on alien Lim?

[illegible]











A CALL FOR

CARP Extension with Reforms and More Decisive Land Redistribution

GOD created land for the benefit of all men. The Vatican Council said: "God destined the earth and all it contains for all men and all peoples so that all created things would be shared fairly by all mankind under the guidance of justice tempered by charity" (Vatican II, 1965, Gaudium et Spes, 69).

In the social teachings of the Church, the concentration of landholdings in a few hands is judged a scandal that goes against God's will and plan for salvation since it deprives the majority of humankind of the fruits of the earth. (Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, *Towards a Better Distribution of Land: The Challenge of Agrarian Reform*, November 1997.)



The heart of our Constitution is social justice. Landlessness is a great moral transgression and social injustice. It is an age-old problem that has spawned social unrests and violent conflicts.

The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) was crafted as a major social justice measure to resolve the country's problems of landlessness and poverty.

Poverty in the Philippines is rural and agricultural. That rural poverty is still with us cannot be blamed on CARP itself. CARP has not been completed within 20 years because of violent resistance to it and its own flaws—such as the pro-landlord modes of land transfer called Voluntary Land Transfer (VLT) and Stock Distribution Option (SDO), arrangements like leaseback and exemptions, and the lack of security of land award certificates as titles. That is why the law governing CARP must be reformed, so that CARP may be pursued to achieve its goal—equity reform through land distribution.

Studies by experts from the academic community, including the University of the Philippines Los Banos (UPLB) and the Asia-Pacific Policy Center, as well as studies of the experience of other countries, attest to real increases in land transfers from tenancy to owner cultivatorships and show significant improvements in productivity, incomes, and welfare of agrarian reform beneficiaries better than those who remain under tenancy.

These studies also provide categorical evidence that agrarian reform translates into faster agricultural development which, in turn, leads to sustainable economic growth. In short, agrarian reform makes both moral and economic sense. In fact, these studies show that inequality in asset distribution, particularly land, is associated with slower growth.

The UPLB Micro Study 2007 also found that at least 73% of farmer beneficiaries continue to till their land and improve their lives despite palpable lack of support from the government. Their continuing dedication to their land speaks a lot about the success potential of CARP. What farmers need are support services like credit, which can be significantly provided by the proposed Agricultural Credit Act. There is no need to make them bear the main burden of generating capital by collateralizing their newly-owned CLOAs.

Landowners who call for an end to CARP are not motivated by any desire to end the sufferings of millions of rural poor. On the contrary, they have derided CARP from the very start and exerted all efforts to frustrate its implementation. They are quick to point to the flaws and failures of CARP in calling for its end. They even put up the fallacious argument that agrarian reform is an obstacle to modernizing agriculture by equating large scale production with large scale ownership. Large scale production is not incompatible with small scale ownership through the use of cooperatives, joint ventures and contract growing, i.e., the Dole system in Mindanao, the example of Thailand. Their arguments reek of untruth because the real motive is selfishness and greed—to prevent the distribution of their land.

The government's bio-fuels program whets the landowners' need to prevent land distribution. They aim to derive huge profits from the program at the expense of the farmers' right to own land and at great risk to production of local food needs. The RP-China land deals, if consummated, will swallow vast lands still to be covered by CARP.

Legislators who move for an end to CARP are dictated by self-interest. They are either big landowners themselves or are related to big landowning families. For moral propriety, they should refrain from campaigning or influencing decisions against CARP.

To abandon CARP is to abandon the government's avowed policy of ensuring the welfare of the great mass of poor Filipinos. To abandon CARP is to violate the constitutional mandate of promoting development through a more equitable distribution of wealth.

To this end, we call on members of the Congress and the Arroyo administration to enact a law extending CARP beyond 2008, but with the land acquisition and distribution (LAD) component intact **and stronger**. Without LAD, the spirit of CARP would be hollow and its essence greatly compromised.

The Department of Agrarian Reform says that there are still 1.2 million hectares of private agricultural lands that need to be distributed to the farmers. Let this land be distributed. Let us narrow the gap between rich and poor, empower the underprivileged, and build a more equitable and progressive rural society.

INDIVIDUALS: **Most Reverend Antonio Ledesma S.J.D.D.**, Archbishop, Cagayan de Oro City • **Most Reverend Broderick S. Pabillo D.D.**, Auxiliary Bishop of Manila • **Most Reverend Ramon C. Arguelles, D.D.**, Archbishop, Lipa City • **Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel**, Congresswoman, AKBAYAN party-list • **Atty. Christian Monsod**, chairman, PARFUND, Inc.; member, Constitutional Commission of 1987 • **Mahar Mangahas**, President, Social Weather Station • **Mary Racelis**, social scientist • **Charito Manlupig**, President, Balay Mindanaw Foundation, Inc. • **Vitaliano Nañagas**, former Chairman, Development Bank of the Philippines • **Gerry Bulatao**, former Undersecretary, DAR • **Jose Noel Olano**, former Undersecretary, DAR • **Dr. Cielito Habito**, former Secretary general, NEDA • **Dr. Fernando Aldaba**, President, Ateneo Civil Society Resource Institute • **Dr. Germelino Bautista**, professor, Economics Department, Ateneo de Manila University • **Dr. Cristina Montiel**, Professor, agrarian reform advocate • **Dr. Luis Dumlao**, agrarian reform advocate • **Mr. Leland de la Cruz**, Asst. Professor and Director, Ateneo Development Studies Program • **Mr. Randy Tuano**, Lecturer, Economics Department, Ateneo de Manila University • **Ricardo Reyes**, agrarian reform advocate

ORGANIZATIONS: TASK FORCE MAPALAD Inc. (TFM Inc.) • TASK FORCE MAPALAD-Negros • Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services, Inc. (IDEALS) • Balaod Mindanaw • Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA) • Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (PHILDHRRA) • Center for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development Philippines (CARRD) • Philippine Agrarian Reform Foundation for National Development, Inc. (PARFUND) • Interface Development Intervention, Inc. (IDIS) • Southeast Asian Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE) • People's Campaign for Agrarian Reform Network, Inc. (AR Now!) • Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (AsiaDHRRA) • Balaod Mindanaw • Center for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (CARRD) • Katinaban ... Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association • ... Farmers Association • Green Valley Farmers Association • ... Association • Fortich Farm Landless Farmers Beneficiaries Association - I • Fortich Farm Landless Farmers Beneficiaries Association - II • ... Estate Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association • ... Farm Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association • ... Association, Inc. - I • ... Landless Farmers Association • Greenfield Land Claimant Petitioners Association • ... Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association • ... Tribal Association • San Jose Landless Farmers Association • San Miguel - Base Camp Farmers Association • ... Farmworkers Association • Montenegro Farm Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association • North Cotabato Autonomous Peasants Organizations (NCAPO) • Center for Rural Empowerment Services in Central Mindanao (CRESCENT) • Samahan ng Magsasaka sa Cagayan (SAMACA) • ... Isabela • Farmworkers Agrarian Reform Movement of Hacienda Luisita (FARM) • ... Quezon • Kilusang Magbubukid ng Bondoc Peninsula (KMBP) • Alyansa at Samahan ng Parasoma sa Albay (ALSA-PARAOMA-Albay) • Alyansa at Samahan ng Parasoma sa Camarines Sur (ALSA-PARAOMA-Camarines Sur) • Alyansa at Samahan ng mga Parasoma sa Masbate (ALSA PARAOMA-Masbate) • Malayang Kalipunan ng mga Magbubukid sa Nueva Ecija (MAKAMANA-Nueva Ecija) • ... Kabuhayan sa Kabalantian (... Negros Oriental) • Cagayan Valley Center for Rural Development and Empowerment (CRDDE) • Emancipatory Movement for Peoples' Empowerment (EMPOWERMENT) • Quezon Association for Rural Development and Democratization Services (QUARDDS) • Bicol Hegemony for Empowerment and Rural Development (B-HEARD) • Masbate Center for Rural Development and Empowerment (MACARADE) • Panay Rural Organizing for Social Order (PROGRESO) • Builders for Rural Empowerment and Human Rights Advocates Network (BRETHREN) • Negros Oriental Center for People Empowerment and Development (NOCPED)

Giuliani, Edwards quit race for White House

Obama vs Clinton

Giuliani for McCain

May be unstoppable

Splitting conservative votes

JPE receives ...

Black letters

Never met him

Scare play

Moving target

Meet aims to fix mess in RP schools

Core value

Depth of challenges

Priority schools

10,000 classrooms

Cayetano, Neri scheduled to sit at same VIP table

Lacson raises questions about Melo's connections

Talked only twice

Moral support for Neri

Tainted appointment

RVM founder moving closer to beatification



Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo

Six took first step

Life of prayer

RVM's beginnings

Diabetic cured

Instantaneous cure

Across the NATION

179 in antismuggling body sacked

Relief came as P45M in cell phones enter Subic

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The appointee of President Macapagal-Arroyo to the Task Force Subic on Thursday ordered the relief of 179 retired military officers and civilians from that antismuggling body.



Group seeks probe of Army use for mining

Hopes up as talks with MILF to resume soon

Farmers who fail to pay irrigation fees to lose water

Deficits

Low collection



PROWESS

NEWSBRIEFS

Road worker kidnapped in Sulu town

North Cotabato inmate recaptured

33 downed by spaghetti, salad

P200-M 6-km road in Dumaguete

Provincial execs to hold assembly

Rebels killed 82 in South Luzon—AFP

Pangasinan town places bet on broiled corn

HOMETOWN Snapshot

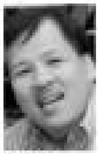
2 Muslim families end 6 years of clan war in peace rites



RP signs $500,000 US lobby deal

THE GOVERNMENT HAS SIGNED A $500,000 (P20 MILLION) lobbying contract with one of Washington D.C.'s more influential law firms to push the country's interests in the United States, particularly veterans issues in the US Congress, the Philippine embassy in Washington said yesterday.

To hike IRA, mayors seek amendment to local gov't code



Growing in number

Amending the Code

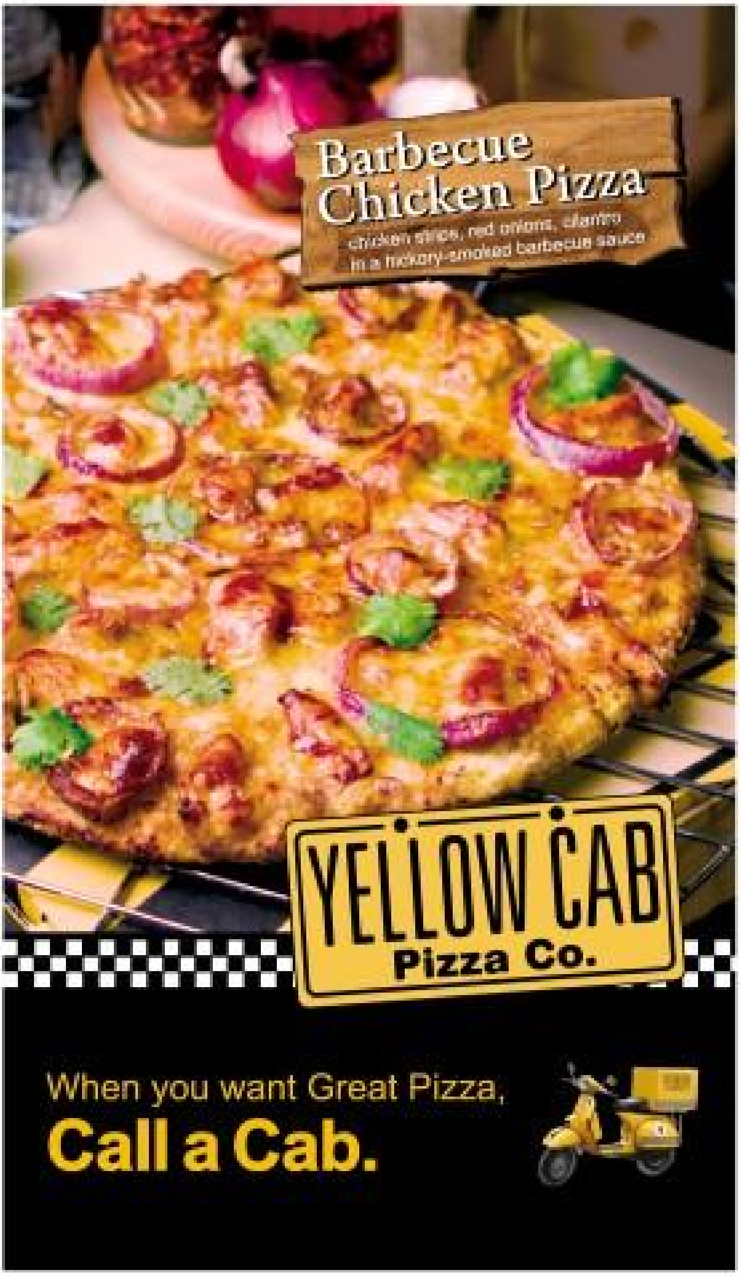
A plus METRO

BORATONG CASE

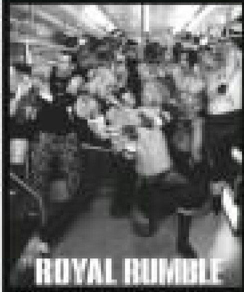
Life imprisonment for 2 Pasig shabu 'tiangge' operators

Positive identification





Thieves fail to take out-of-gas vehicle



P174-K bail recommended for alleged Peeping Tom

Pasay City Mayor Trinidad says he is not intimidated by 'harassment'

Opposition spokesperson Adel Tamano installed as youngest PLM president



ADEL Tamano at investiture: New look for "the little university that could."

Atienza won't budge from EO stand

Australia apology to Aborigines runs into trouble



Starbucks closing 100 stores in US

The WORLD

Poll: 1M Iraqis killed since invasion

LONDON—MORE THAN ONE MILLION IRAQIS HAVE died because of the war in Iraq since the US-led invasion of the country in 2003, according to a study published Wednesday.

A fifth of Iraqi households lost at least one family member between March 2003 and August 2007 due to the conflict, said data compiled by London-based Opinion Research Business (ORB) and its research partner in Iraq, the Independent Institute for Administration and Civil Society Studies (IIACSS).

The study based its findings on survey work involving the face-to-face questioning of 2,414 Iraqi adults aged 18 or above, and the last complete census in Iraq in 1997, which indicated a total of 4.05 million households.

Respondents were asked how many members of their household, if any had died as a result of the violence in the country since 2003, and not because of natural causes.

"We now estimate that the death toll between March 2003 and August 2007 is likely to have been in the region of 1,033,000," ORB said in a statement.

The margin of error for the survey was 1.7 percent, making the estimated range between 946,000 and 1.12 million fatalities.

The highest rate of deaths throughout the country occurred in Baghdad, where more than 40 percent of households had lost a family member.

According to a July 2007 estimate by the United States, Iraq's population is around 27 million.

The country has been wracked by conflict since the March 2003 invasion which deposed dictator Saddam Hussein, with United Nations estimates putting the number of displaced people from the conflict at more than four million, nearly half of whom have fled to neighboring countries.



A BOY cries during the funeral of Auda Abdul-Kareem, a cameraman killed in a bomb attack in Baghdad on Jan. 30. AFP

A small number of those refugees have begun returning to Iraq—around 20,000 arrived from Syria in December—the Iraqi Red Crescent said earlier this month, suggesting an improved security situation. AFP



US continues to violate human rights, says HRW

NEW YORK—THE UNITED STATES CONtinues to violate basic human rights by keeping secret detention facilities abroad, holding people illegally as "disappeared" and justifying torture, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said Thursday.

The Human Rights Watch World Report 2008 found no improvement in the human rights situation in the United States, despite efforts by the US Congress to end the alleged abuses carried out in its war on terrorism.

"There was no evident progress concerning the treatment of so-called enemy combatants, including those held at Guantanamo Bay (Cuba), or the use of secret detention facilities in foreign countries," HRW said.

The Pentagon in 2007 released more than 100 "war on terror" detainees held in the prison facility at the US Navy base in eastern Cuba, but 305 continue to be imprisoned there, most of them without having been formally charged.

After the 2006 legislative elections that put Democrats in charge of both houses of Congress, a bill restoring Guantanamo prisoners' right to habeas corpus was proposed but has yet to be approved.

HRW said in its report that by announcing in April that a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) prisoner had been transferred to Guantanamo, the Pentagon made it clear there still were US detention facilities around the world.

The rights group said it believed 39 people were being held in US secret detention facilities and recalled that the US government had admitted to holding 100 prisoners in all.

"Under international law these persons remain unlawfully 'disappeared' until the United States can account for them," the report said.

And despite congressional pressure forcing the Pentagon to adopt new rules for prisoner interrogations to preclude torture-like abuses, HRW said the US government continues to justify such techniques in certain cases.

"The CIA contends that it is not bound by these rules, and the (US) administration has gone to great lengths to justify the CIA's continued use of torture techniques banned for use by the military," said the report.

On the domestic front, HRW said 2.3 million people were imprisoned in 2007 in the United States, a 500 percent increase over the past 30 years and equivalent to five times the entire prison population of Britain.

In addition to having the largest prison population in the world, the report added, the United States imprisoned blacks at a rate 6.5 times higher than that of whites.

HRW also found that undocumented foreigners faced greater risk of arrest in the United States, had difficulty in asserting their legal rights in court and were imprisoned under sometimes abusive conditions.

The report also criticized US laws listing people convicted of sexual offenses in a national sexual offender registry that turns them into social pariahs with little chance of finding employment or housing, and making them the target of violence. AFP

SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic E. Melendres Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa



FRONTLINERS: 2007 World Pool runner-up Roberto Gomez (seated, second from left) shows the constitution of the newly formed BMPP as former dual world champion Ronnie Alcano, Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante (seated, from left) and other professional pool players look on in yesterday's press conference.

Cue masters begin revolt

Bata, Alcano & Co. drift away from BSCP, form own group

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IMAGINE A PHILIPPINE BILliards team without the likes of Bata, Django and The Volcano.

That became a distinct possibility after the country's top cue artists formally announced the formation of their own group yesterday while retaining their membership with the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP).

The new bloc, called the Billiards Managers and Players of the Philippines (BMPP), is made up of top players like Efren "Bata" Reyes, Fran-

CUE MASTERS A27

Barako, Realtors seek repeat victories

Bayron looks a cinch with 5-stroke lead



He's a devil, Beristain says of Pacquiao



BERISTAIN

Gorres has the talent, tools to beat Darchinyan—Pacman



FINALIST

Hapee turns to Alas for redemption



ALAS "Big Boss"

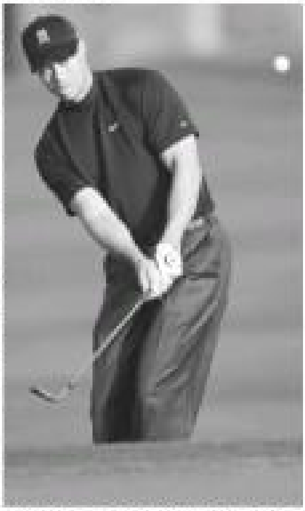
CL top guns fight the best in NCA derby

SPORTSWATCH

Pasay 4-cock series returns

200-entry 'fastest win' today

Tiger scorches Desert with 65



TIGER Woods

Raptors smother Wizards

Peping wants NSA administrative officers



COJUANGCO

Cue masters begin revolt, form own group

Durant, Yi lead rookies

RP vs Thailand, let the trial begin

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad



SPORTS



Mission incredible for RP's Tipon

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corvin S. Martinez

Bangko Sentral cuts key interest rate

Risks of rising inflation temper reduction to only 25 basis points

CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET

Stocks close mixed after GDP numbers



THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS YESTERDAY slashed its benchmark interest rate by a quarter percentage point, modestly matching the 125-basis-point interest rate reduction by the US Federal Reserve in the last two weeks.

Peso rallies to 40.55 to a dollar

IN THIS ISSUE

iVantage investing ₱50M to put up 2 mutual funds

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson





Peso rallies ...

Stocks close mixed ...

PRULINK PRU LIFE U.K.





EVERYTHING FITS. IT'S JUST SO RIGHT.
Unit prices start at ₱1.5M with low monthly amortizations available.
THE BEACON
CONSTRUCTION IN FULL SWING.
Tel. 401-3880 / 401-3883 • www.thebeacon.com.ph



Great deals to start the year right!
NISSAN 2008 PROSPERITREATS
Great deals for businesses-on-wheels!
98k
Low Downpayment
• FREE 3 years LTO registration
168k
Low Downpayment
ALL-IN, FREE!
• Insurance
• Chattel Mortgage Fees
• 3 years LTO registration
Premium offers on pleasurable rides!
88.8k
Power Advantage Gift Voucher
OR
0% Interest @ 40% DP 12 mos. term
• FREE 3 years LTO registration
168k
Low Downpayment
ALL-IN, FREE!
• Insurance
• Chattel Mortgage Fees
• 3 years LTO registration
FRONTIER STANDARD
URVAN SHUTTLE/VX
PATROL SUPER SAFARI
URVAN ESTATE
NISSAN
Universal Motors Corporation

DA commits ₱5.9B to ensure agri growth

RP measure meant to counter fallout from US recession

Energy and agriculture

COMMENTARY

Key sectors

A natural fit

Gov't sale of Meralco stake legal, says DOF

Defensor 'dead certain' of renewable energy bill's passage

Bangko Sentral cuts key ...

Money supply grew 9% in Dec.

BSP now more flexible in setting monetary policies

Disclosure vs approval

Corporate Securities Info

Meralco acquires stake in Clark power firm

BUSINESS Friday

MARKETING'S DIFFERENT GAME

Buyers of firm's products are not the only market

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

'Effectively relevant now are a stakeholder relations program, a scenario-building PR campaign ...'



'How do we find the type of sales promos that consumers want?'

MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Andy Roberto

Follow Havaianas' footsteps

Challenge tradition

Check out this check list of promos

BUSINESS

Consumer spending to grow despite strong peso

Filipino workers landing higher-paying jobs abroad, Neda says



New facilities seen raising Petron margins

Quick reporting of disease outbreaks urged

FASHION

LIFESTYLE

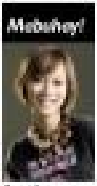


For the love of sport

MANY WOULD SAY LOVE IS A GAME. WE are all players who experience the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat.

And, just like in sport, what usually matters is not how many times we win or lose, but how we play the game.

These young women profess to be in love. The object of their affection? Sports. In love, these dynamic young females make us to love with the game.



Mabuhay!

Jenni Epperson

They will be the new endorsers of Nike when the global brand unveils its latest campaign in time for Valentine's Day.

Called "This is Love," the regional campaign celebrates women's love of sports and will encourage Filipino women of all ages to do anything they set their minds to.

After all, it was Nike that inspired and encouraged us to "Just Do It."

You can say the relationship is a mind-heart-body love triangle. Instead of being self-absorbed, the passion and dedication of each woman is channeled to the object of their affection, their favorite sport.

Featured here are the young active women who excel in their respective passions, like kickboxing, surfing, BMX biking, football, yoga, running, dance, spinning and volleyball.

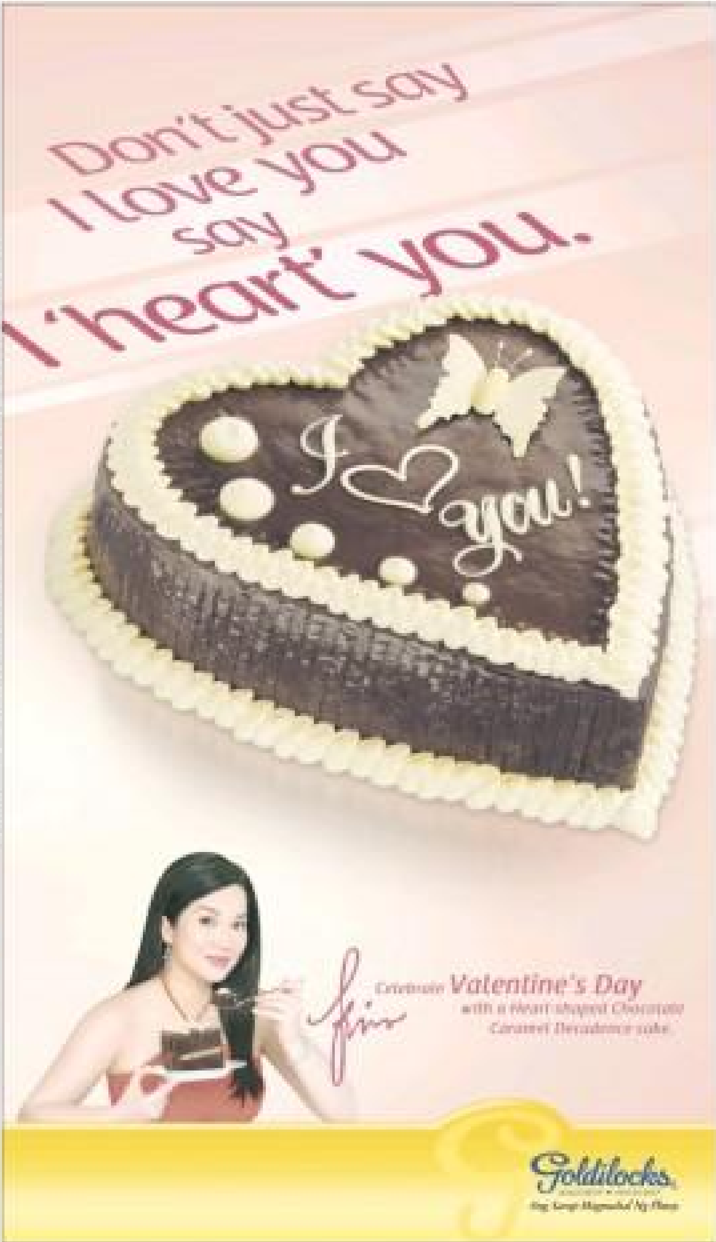
The girls will be sporting Nike's latest Spring 2008 product collection, which was created to provide female consumers versatility in styling their individual look for a particular sport.

Keep it cool

How to stand out even when you are working out? Beyond keeping cool and

SEE PAGE E3





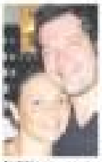


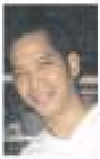




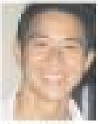


















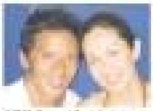
Glory that was Greece in Boracay

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH



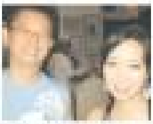
Maurice Arcache

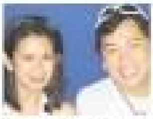
New camera phone

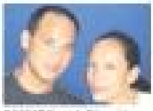




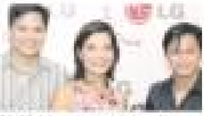




























For the love of sport







Home *Suite* Home

Shopwise Hypermarket has got everything you need to create the perfect place to come home to. Whether it be the perfect cutlery set, a stylish home accessory, the latest in cookware or the hottest trend in kitchen design, Shopwise upgrades your home at the prices you'll love.

The retail outlet also hooks you up with the top picks in consumer technology. Indulge your passion for everything high-tech with its array of electronic goods, ranging from brand new releases to all-time favorites, that keep you connected, updated and entertained.

Now you can get all these nifty gadgets and appliances, with up to 50% off in prices, as Shopwise presents iHome, a month-long electronics and home fair scheduled from February 1 to 29, 2008. Sounds fun?



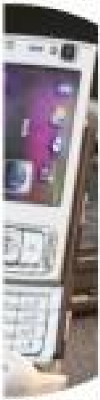


It gets even better. Every purchase of P500 worth of home and electronic items entitles shoppers to join the raffle draw. Those who avail of sponsor products will automatically earn bonus coupons that also qualify them for the promo.

From personal entertainment to eco-friendly systems, Shopwise has got every area covered with over P1.4 million worth of prize showcases to be given away!

Score the ultimate in home entertainment systems with the i-Unwind showcase that comes with a 42" plasma TV, surround sound Home Theater setup, plus matching theater seats to complete the entire cinematic experience. Or get a dose of kitchen luxury with i-Taste, the ultra-modern showcase packed with upscale cooking equipment.





Shopwise has even got tech fans drooling over the hottest digital marvels in its i-Tech showcase. Who would want to miss out on a laptop, mobile phone, digital camera, mp3 player, and the latest media must-haves?

Finally, the i-Save showcase features a line-up of energy-saving appliances such as a refrigerator, washing machine, air purifier and electronic goods that are easy on the environment and the wallet as well. Shopwise also helps you save up while you shop through pay-lite and installment options from participating credit card partners.

Ring in the New Year with a visit to Shopwise. It's got everything you need for an improved home and of course, a happier you!

Shopwise is located in Makati, Libis, Antipolo City, at the ground floor of the Harrison Plaza Mall, at the Festival Supermall in Alabang, in Araneta Center, Cubao and along Sucat Road corner [illegible], Parañaque City.



FASHION



FASHION FLASH

Luxurious couture



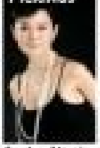




Prelude to summer

Myth in Greenbelt 5 offers creations by Randy Ortiz, Jesus Lloren, Joey Samson, Ivarluski Aseron and Dennis Lustico

APPLES' PICKINGS



Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

WITH THE ADVENT OF the Filipino Zone in Greenbelt 5, local retail has never looked as exciting and promising as it does today.

[illegible]

Different collars

[illegible]









Bad boy, good looks









Thoroughly modern Julia

SUPER SHOPPING WEEKEND AT SM SUPERMALLS

Clear your schedules and mark February 1, 2 and 3 on your calendars because your most awaited sale event is hitting SM City North Edsa and SM City Sucat! **SM Supermalls' Great 3-Day Sale has come once again!** Shoppers will be treated to great bargains and large discounts of up to 50% off on great selections mallwide.

ENDLESS CHOICES AT SM CITY NORTH EDSA

Hundreds of participating establishments at SM City North Edsa assure you of the widest shopping choices with the most attractive prices. Here, you're sure to find something that each member of your family is sure to enjoy.

SHOPPING SPECIALS AT SM CITY SUCAT

Check out the SM Department Store at Bldg. B and enjoy huge discounts on apparel, shoes and fashion accessories for men, women and kids. Visit SM Hypermarket at Bldg. A and pick out the freshest produce and grocery items, all attractively priced to fit your weekly grocery budget. Personal care and home appliances are also available at discounted prices.

COMPLETE ENJOYMENT

In between shopping, relax a bit by breaking for refreshments at one of our many restaurants. Grab a snack at one of the food kiosks, sit down for a quick meal at one of the casual dining places or savor a delicious feast at one of the fine dining restaurants. Afterwards, you can complete the family bonding experience by catching the latest movies at the SM Cinemas or by playing with the kids at the Amusement Center.

EXCITING PROMOS, EXCITING PRIZES!

Get a chance to bring home one of three (3) 81cm (32-inch) JVC High Definition TVs. Simply shop at participating establishments and save your receipts. Every P500 receipt will earn you one raffle coupon. Aside from that, you can also get a coupon for every P150 single purchase at the SM Foodcourts, or when you buy four cinema tickets (single purchase) at the SM Cinemas, and for P150 single purchase of tokens at the Amusement Center. Simply present your proof of purchase at the designated redemption center at the store of purchase any time during mall hours within the promo period.

Three (3) TVs each will be given away at SM City North Edsa and SM City Sucat so you'll have better chances of winning. Raffle draw will be on February 3, 2008 at 10:15 pm, so you can submit your coupons until 10:00 pm of the same day.

Make sure to mark these dates and be ready to rush to SM Supermalls to grab the best deals before everyone else!



SM SUPERMALLS
North Edsa • Sucat

3x the Chances to Win!

Get a chance to win one of three (3) **81cm (32-inch) JVC DynaPix High Definition LCD TVs with every ₱500 purchase.**

JVC BDO

3-Day Sale Mall Hours

SM City North Edsa

Feb. 1 & 2	10am - 11pm
Feb. 3	10am - 10pm

SM City Sucat

Feb. 1 & 3	10am - 10pm
Feb. 2	10am - 11pm

LifeStyle

BEAUTY



Keeping your cheeks pink will attract love. The look adds youthfulness, which is always attractive

Beauty according to feng shui

ACCORDING TO WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY, feng shui (literally "wind and water") is an ancient Chinese geomancy [illegible] that [illegible] dictates the layout of cities, villages, dwellings and buildings.

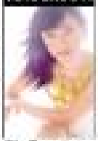
It is erroneously identified as geomancy, an unfortunate mistranslation courtesy of 19th-century Christian missionaries. The most recent (1980s) definition, heavily flavored by the New Age movement, explains feng shui as the arrangement of objects within a home to obtain an optimum flow of qi (energy).

In rural China, according to a recent fieldwork by Ole Bruun, feng shui is used to obtain health, family harmony and prosperity; qi flow is rarely mentioned.

I am not Chinese, but I find different cultures, beliefs and traditions very interesting. The Chinese New Year is around the corner, which means that after writing this article I'm going to call the salon to get an appointment for a haircut for the new year.

I believe that if I do things that are believed to help make one more prosperous, then just that positive outlook will make me very lucky. Of course, getting a new 'do always makes me look good, and that is a good enough reason to get that Chinese New Year 'do.

KNOCKOUT!



Mia Francisco-Prieto

Basic principles

I once did a "feng shui beauty" [illegible] magazine. I reproduce some of the pointers from that article so readers will understand the concept better.

Keeping your cheeks pink will attract love. The look adds youthfulness, which is always attractive. Choose a blush that will complement your color.

For good luck, keep eyes symmetrical and shiny. Plucking your brows is not only good for your looks but will be good for you in general. Get threading at least every other month so that the aesthetician can shape your brows properly.

BEAUTY E3

A dsarie novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA



A. LIPIN



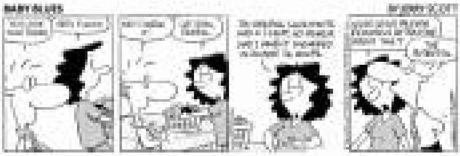
PUGAD BABOY

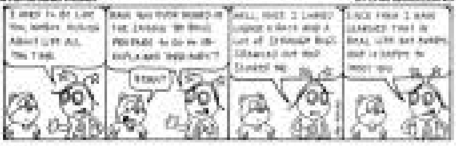


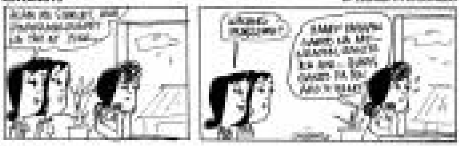
GARFIELD



BABY BLUES

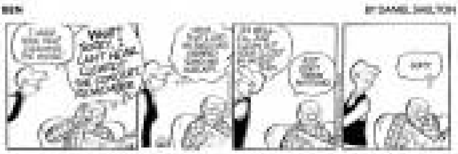




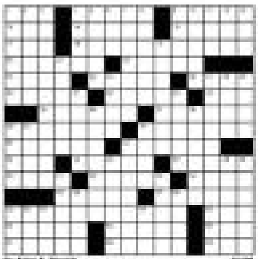


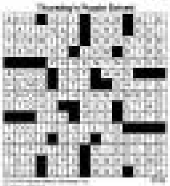
KIKO MACHINE





DAILY CROSSWORD





HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — By Dave Green

2		3			1			7
		9	5		2	4		3
6		8				5		
				3				
		5				2		8
3		4	7		8	6		
7			6			9		2

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

6	1	7	9	5	3	8	2	4
3	8	9	2	1	4	5	7	6
5	2	4	7	8	6	3	1	9
8	3	6	1	4	7	2	9	5
9	4	1	5	6	2	7	8	3
7	5	2	3	9	8	4	6	1
1	9	3	8	2	5	6	4	7
4	7	8	6	3	1	9	5	2
2	6	5	4	7	9	1	3	8

Road-testing services off the beaten path

MAKEOVER 911

Kitty Solas

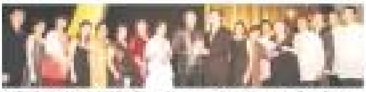








Beauty brand best in Asia-Pacific



Concealer and skin vitamin in one product





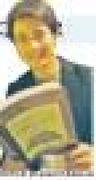


Sweet smell of success

Beauty. . .

LIVING Stars

Editor: Rosario G. Yolando



RON MORALES

RICK WARREN SHARES HIS EXPERIENCE in "The Purpose Driven Life" so that others may learn from them. It helped me cope with depression when I was jobless. Before becoming a model/actor, I didn't know which career to pursue.

—Marinel R. Cruz

BOOKS



RICHARD, left, is grilled by ...

Family affair

THE GUTIERREZES, ALONG WITH FRIENDS from showbiz, came in full force to celebrate the birthday of "Kamandag" star Richard and his twin Raymond, who turned 24 on Jan. 21. Held Sunday at Sine Esplanade, the party was videotaped for airing Sunday on GMA-7 as a special, "It Handsome Journey." Highlight of the evening was a lie-detector scene in which the twins took turns as interrogator and interviewee. Another high point was a taped greeting from Richard's onscreen leads, ...



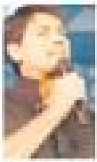


PROUD parents Eddie and Annabelle with guest Melissa Mendez



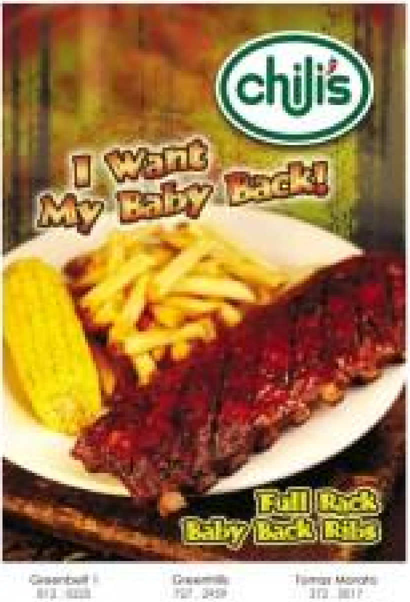
GMA Films head Annette Gozon-Abrogar, with Michelle Madrigal and director Mark Reyes





FROM one Richard to another. ...







Hairloss is wrecking her life and she doesn't know why.



Thinning hair makes a woman look older. When your hair's health, shine and texture weaken, it seems your personality is likewise affected. Self-consciousness, diminished self-esteem, even bouts of depression may ensue.

Most women who have gone through this harrowing experience say they tried everything to stop hairloss, from special treatments at the salon, to a whole range of over-the-counter products. But nothing worked. Sadly, many "remedies" may have actually made the condition worse. Until they found out the reason why they were losing hair, little could be done to end the problem.

Possible reasons for hairloss.

Women's hairloss can be caused by hormonal changes. Female Pattern Baldness (or Androgenetic Alopecia) is a reaction to male hormones in the body (androgens) which can weaken a woman's hair. Other factors can be stress, poor nutrition, illnesses and reaction to certain medications, childbirth and menopause, frequent coloring, curling, straightening, and many more. Most causes of hairloss, when they are correctly identified, can be treated with good results.

Getting the facts on why you are losing hair.

Trichology is the study of the functions and problems of hair. A trichologist is someone who has been educated in the subject and is qualified to determine the reasons why your hair is not in good health.

Where do you find a trichologist? One name that has been synonymous with Professional Trichology in the Philippines for more than 25 years: Svenson. Svenson trichologists will examine your hair and scalp and give you advice on what to do.

A trichologist - what does it cost?

Nothing. Svenson trichologists offer an in-depth Hair & Scalp analysis totally free of charge.

Pre-hairloss symptoms.

Before your hair starts falling out, be aware of early warning signs such as persistent dandruff, flaking, and scalp irritations. Beat hairloss - see a trichologist when you see these signs!

These visible indications may show ... and when combined with dirt in the atmosphere, shampoo chemicals or excess oiliness, they can block follicles, badly affecting hair growth.

Treatments to help your hair.

Depending on the findings of your Hair & Scalp analysis, you can decide on treatment programs including:

ULTRA HAIR REINFORCER - deep-cleans scalp, creates healthier environment for growth. Hair becomes thicker, shinier, more lush.

ULTRA LUXE VOLUMIZER - quickly controls and stops hair fall, helps restore original lushness, volume and softness.

SCALP CORRECTING eliminates dandruff, flaking and other irritations, returns scalp to normal state, prevents imminent hairloss.

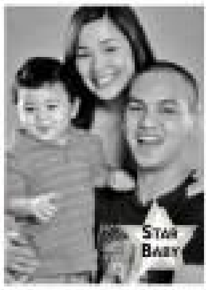
Make an appointment today to see a trichologist free of charge. Call Svenson at 892-4247 ... 234-0851 (Cebu).



REGINE ANGELES

MY FAVORITE BOOK is "Memoirs of a Geisha" by Arthur Golden. [illegible] It's so romantic and at the same time informative. It describes the rich Japanese culture during World War II. It's very poetic. I like the book better than the movie. [illegible] I will definitely recommend this to friends.

Marinel R. Cruz



BRENT MARCUS ALEMANIA

ACCORDING TO first-time mom Mickey Ferriols, left, "Bonding time with baby Brent means lots of hugs, kisses and 'I-love-yous.' We jump in bed and I give him horsey rides. We brush our teeth together. I tell him stories. We play bowling and basketball. My favorite activity is chatting with him about anything under the sun."

Marinel R. Cruz







NYOY VOLANTE

I HARDLY GO OUT of my condo because I have everything I need here. I enjoy hanging out with my friends in the living room. The couch is our favorite spot, where we play Xbox, have movie [illegible] or simply chill.

Marinel R. Cruz





The Screen Actors Guild Awards night in H'wood, Jan. 27

AT THE CINEMAS

Cinema							
GLORIETTA 1	1 One Missed Call	2 Cloverfield	3 In the Name of the King	4 American Gangster			
GLORIETTA 4	1 One Missed Call	2 27 Dresses	3 In the Name of the King	4 Alvin & the Chipmunks	5 Alien vs. Predator 2	6 Cloverfield	7 Saw 4
GREENBELT 1	1 27 Dresses	2 Cloverfield					
GREENBELT 3	1 27 Dresses	2 Cloverfield	3 Rambo 4	4 Alien vs. Predator 2	5 One Missed Call		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 Cloverfield	2 In the Name of the King	3 27 Dresses	4 Saw 4	5 One Missed Call		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 Cloverfield	2 Alvin & the Chipmunks	3 Saw 4	4 Alien vs. Predator 2			
MARKET! MARKET!	1 Cloverfield	2 Saw 4	3 27 Dresses	4 In the Name of the King	5 One Missed Call		
TRINOMA	1 Rambo 4	2 Saw 4	3 27 Dresses	4 In the Name of the King	5 One Missed Call	6 Alien vs. Predator 2	7 Cloverfield

AT THE MALLS

Mall	Event
Glorietta	Photoworld Manila, January 30 to February 3
Greenbelt	Welcome 2008 Sale, January 17 to February 3
Alabang Town Center	Alvin & The Chipmunks Live at Alabang Town Center [illegible]
Ayala Center Cebu	Welcome 2008 Sale, January 17 to February 3
Market! Market!	Welcome 2008 Sale, January 17 to February 3
Ayala Museum	[illegible]
Trinoma	Welcome 2008 Sale, January 17 to February 3



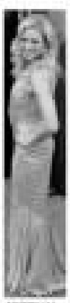


E IGNACIO









BRITTANY



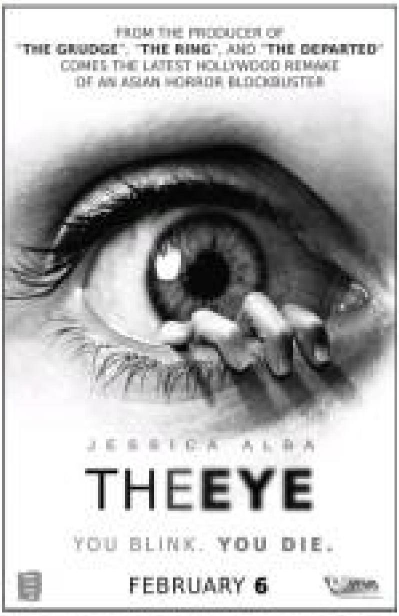
Worse than divorce, JK says

LONDON—FINISHING WITH HARRY Potter was more painful than divorce, the author of the boy wizard blockbusters, J.K. Rowling said Tuesday.

[illegible]

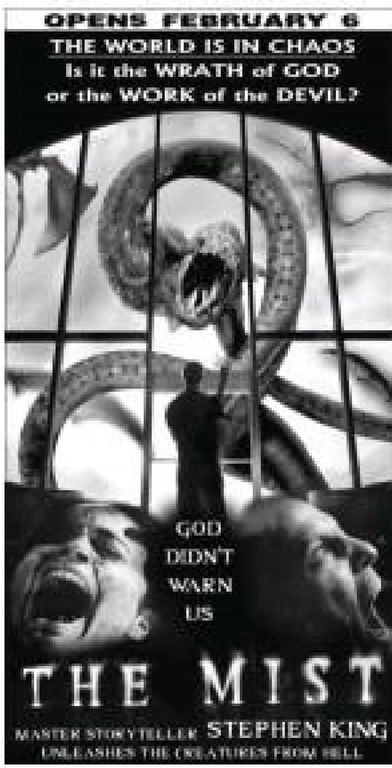
AFP















MOM Pastora, dad Jun and Jolina in the kitchen.

Tucked in the verdant hills of Tagaytay, a laid-back country house serves as a retreat for the whole Magdangal family, in fact



Jolina's hideaway



VINTAGE phone from Tagaytay shop (top); antique toy cars from a local bazaar (above).



SACRED Heart antique hangs by an old European armoire decorated with ceramics.



BRIDGE by the cabana was designed by dad.

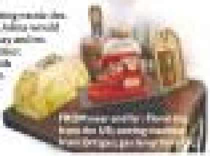
By Bayani San Diego Jr.

WHENEVER HER PERENNIALLY hectic schedule permits, singer-actress Jolina Magdangal escapes to tranquil Tagaytay—more precisely, to a cozy country home that serves as a retreat for her entire family.





SPINNING wheel





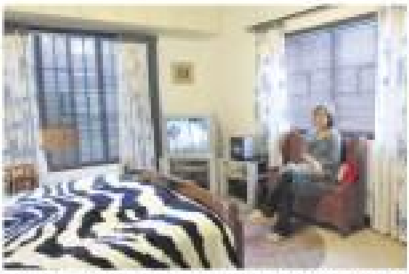


MEDITERRANEAN kitchen is decorated with country kitsch accents and the colorful bottles and jars painted by the Magdangals.

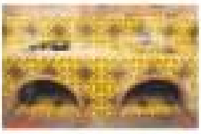


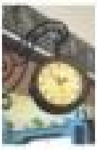
OLD: Jun found the picnic table from an antique shop in Quezon City.





MASTER bedroom features a zebra-print bedspread from the US and a wooden bench from a White Plains shop.





MEXICAN tiles adorn the dirty kitchen (above); antique clock from New York (left).

ENTERTAINMENT



The Greta chronicles

'She's too savvy to be caught on the losing end of a breakup, true or not'

GRETCHEN Barretto

By the Inquirer Entertainment Staff

RUSHES SPECIAL

[illegible]

What we know

[illegible]

What we've gathered

[illegible]

What is likely

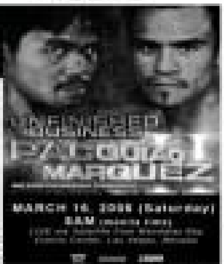
[illegible]

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA

1 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2 - TAX
2 27 DRESSES
3 IN THE NAME of the KING
4 ONE MISSED CALL
5 CLOVERFIELD
6 SAW IV
7 P.S. I LOVE YOU
8 Indiefilms: CONDO / SIKIL
9 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
10 JOHN RAMBO



ERMITA

1 I AM LEGEND / NATIONAL TREASURE 2
2 Indiefilms: SIKIL / CONDO
3 P.S. I LOVE YOU
4 ONE MISSED CALL
5 SAW IV
6 JOHN RAMBO
7 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
1 IN THE NAME of the KING
2 CLOVERFIELD
3 27 DRESSES

METRO EAST

1 ONE MISSED CALL
2 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
3 JOHN RAMBO
4 IN THE NAME of the KING
5 SAW IV
6 P.S. I LOVE YOU / NATIONAL TREASURE 2
7 CLOVERFIELD
8 27 DRESSES

NOVALICHES

1 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
2 SAW IV
3 CLOVERFIELD
4 JOHN RAMBO
5 IN THE NAME of the KING
6 ONE MISSED CALL
7 27 DRESSES

PIONEER

1 CLOVERFIELD
2 IN THE NAME of the KING
3 ONE MISSED CALL / 27 DRESSES
4 JOHN RAMBO

STA. ROSA

1 JOHN RAMBO
2 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
3 ALVIN and the CHIPMUNKS
4 THE HEARTBREAK KID

LIPA

1 SWEENEY TODD
2 THE HEARTBREAK KID
3 DRAGON WAR
4 SYDNEY WHITE

DASMARIÑAS

1 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
2 27 DRESSES
3 JOHN RAMBO
4 CLOVERFIELD

IMUS

1 SAW IV
2 JOHN RAMBO
3 ONE MISSED CALL
4 CLOVERFIELD
5 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
6 27 DRESSES

ANGELES

1 JOHN RAMBO
2 I COULD NEVER BE YOUR WOMAN
3 CLOVERFIELD
4 AMERICAN GANGSTER

TARLAC

1 SWEENEY TODD
2 DESPERADAS
3 DEATH PROOF

STARMILLS

1 DEATH PROOF
2 I COULD NEVER BE YOUR WOMAN
3 CLOVERFIELD
4 AMERICAN GANGSTER
5 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
6 JOHN RAMBO

BACOLOD

1 AMERICAN GANGSTER
2 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
3 SWEENEY TODD
4 I COULD NEVER BE YOUR WOMAN
5 NATIONAL TREASURE 2
6 HOOD of HORROR

ILOILO

1 ALIENS vs. PREDATOR 2
2 SWEENEY TODD
3 JOHN RAMBO
4 AMERICAN GANGSTER
5 I COULD NEVER BE YOUR WOMAN
6 DRAGON WAR



THE LATE talent manager, left, with a young Sharon Cuneta.

ENTERTA

One final sta

Mona Lisa smile



Typical date m overused rom-

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIE

Standard plot

...nding ovation for Angie, that other divine Ms M

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

...ben V. Nepales



[illegible]

Frequent traveler

[illegible]

Many talents

[illegible]

> She was an impresario in every sense of the word. She was determined to wring out a 'standing ovation' from audiences, here or abroad



...movie with ...-com theme

[illegible]

Smart but dense

[illegible]



Choose Your Valentine Show

EVERY YEAR, Inquirer Entertainment helps readers pick the best show for that special date, by asking the concert artists what they have in store for audiences. This is part 2 of the 2008 series.



John Lesaca, Tots Tolentino, and Noelle Cassandra

When not doing a concert, how do you celebrate Valentine's?

What's your most romantic Valentine's Day ever?

What's an ideal Valentine date?

What's your fantasy date?

What's the most romantic love song?

If you were not doing a show, who would you watch?

Why should we watch your show?

* * *

Lucia Micarelli

When not doing a concert, how do you celebrate Valentine's?

What's your most romantic Valentine's Day ever?

What's an ideal Valentine date?

What's your fantasy date?

What's the most romantic love song?

If you were not doing a show, who would you watch?

Why should we watch your show?

Down and up sides to film awards' diminution

Viewfinder



Nestor U. Torre

No stars, no glamour

Torres High reunion

Batanes photo safari

Feedback

Refreshing 'Baral'